



ROWING ENTHUSIAST LESLIE C. HENDRY
Nine-Day Trip To The Fair

—Call-Bulletin Photo

6 TO 9-DAY TRIP— S.F. **8/ 1955**
Call

He's Going To State Fair By Rowboat!

Leslie C. Hendry, U. S. customs port patrol officer, is going to the State Fair at Sacramento — but not by car, train or plane.

He's taking a rowboat.

Hendry, who is 59, is a devoted rowing enthusiast who's not put off by the fact it's 120 miles across the bay and up the Sacramento River to the fair.

He'll start at 5:30 a. m., August 30, from Aquatic Park, and figures the trip will take six to nine days.

Hendry may have company on a future trip to Sacramento. He said today he hopes a rowboat excursion to the fair will become an annual event for all members of the Dolphin Swim and Boat Club, to which he belongs.

Wet Skipper Rowing To Fair

(Photo on Page 17.)

The rowboat "Don Baggiardi" tore off into San Francisco Bay before dawn today with a crew of one wet but determined skipper who plans to visit the State Fair at Sacramento.

Leslie C. Hendry, the 59-year-old oarsman, expects to reach the capitol in about six to nine days.

His departure, however, was made under a handicap.

A fellow member of the Dolphin Swim and Boat Club who was to help Hendry cast off at 5:30 a. m. failed to show up.

Newspapermen did their best to help. But after all hands got the 14-foot rowboat down to the water's edge at Aquatic Park, somebody forgot to tie it up.

Off it drifted, into the pre-dawn darkness. Hendry, a U. S. Customs port patrol officer, waded determinedly into chest-deep water to rescue it.

Fair-Bound Rower Makes Rio Vista

Leslie C. Hendry, the San Francisco rower who will get his view of the State Fair the hard way, arrived in Rio Vista yesterday full of praise for the beauty of moonlight on the Sacramento River and the comfort of rubber cushions.

Hendry began his rowboat voyage to Sacramento at high tide Tuesday.

Oarsman at Martinez

Dolphin Club Member Headed for Fair

Leslie C. Hendry ended the first lap of his rowboat voyage at Martinez yesterday, after a dunking which drenched him to the ears before he departed.

Hendry, en route to the State fair at Sacramento, using a boat and two stout oars as his transportation "ticket," arrived at Martinez at 3 p. m., "in good shape except for a couple of blisters," he reported to a friend, Paul Ahern, by telephone.

(Hendry said bluntly the blisters were not on his hands.)

CAMPS OVERNIGHT.

He camped overnight in a sleeping bag and expects to resume his trip early today, as soon as the tide permits.

Hendry left Aquatic Park at 3:57 a. m. after an unscheduled dunking. His unattended rowboat drifted about thirty feet from shore before Hendry plunged into the water and retrieved the craft.

Hendry said he expects to stop next at Rio Vista.

120 MILE TRIP.

The fair opens tomorrow but the United States Customs officer and veteran rower was in no great hurry. His trip up the Sacramento River, he said, probably would take six days.

The distance is 120 miles. His fourteen foot craft was loaded with canned food, a small gasoline stove, a sleeping bag and a metal container of clothes.

Hendry is a member of the Dolphin Swim and Boat Club. He hopes to persuade other rowers to join him annually in an excursion via water to the State Fair.

The longest trips he has rowed previously were in 1926 and 1927 when he rowed to Stockton up the San Joaquin River.

Rower Having His Woes

At Steamboat Landing 25 Miles to Go

Sept 4-55

The saga of the Sacramento-bound rowboat flowed along somewhat less than smoothly yesterday, the fifth day out.

Leslie C. Hendry, the San Francisco oarsman who is making the tortuous voyage, reported his arrival at Steamboat Landing, twenty-five miles out of the State capital, at 9:10 a. m. Cargo and passenger were intact, he added, but that was about all.

"The further I go, the more disorganized the trip is getting," Hendry commented. His departure from Rio Vista the previous day, he explained, was in the nature of a "near tragedy."

"First I forgot my Thermos, then kerosene for my lantern," Hendry, a United States customs employe, related.

Six miles up the Sacramento River, near Isleton, a speedboat overtook him with his wardrobe. It seems that Hendry left the can containing his clean clothing behind on the pier.

Hendry expects to complete his 100-mile trip tomorrow. A member of the Dolphin Swim and Boat Club, he is making the trip in an attempt to encourage other rowers to do the same when the fair opens every year.



LONG ROW—Leslie C. Hendry, 59, member of the Dolphin Swim and Boat Club, sets out on rowboat trip to the State Fair at

Sacramento. He left Aquatic Park on his 120 mile jaunt and said that he expected to be paddling from six to nine days.

Oarsman At Fair 1955

SACRAMENTO, Sept. 5 (AP).—Leslie C. Hendry, 59, San Francisco customs officer who rows as a hobby, has had enough for a while.

Hendry rowed into the Sacramento Yacht Club wharf late yesterday from San Francisco.

He made the 105-mile upstream trip to the state fair in seven days-rowing, he said, about seven hours each day.

Dunked S. F. Clubman Starts For State Fair--Via Rowboat

Drenched to the ears but nevertheless in good spirits, 59

year old Leslie C. Hendry yesterday started for the State Fair in Sacramento—in a rowboat.

He left Aquatic Park at 5:37 a. m. after an unscheduled dunking. His unattended rowboat drifted about thirty feet away from shore before it was noticed and he had to plunge into the water to haul it back.

His immediate destination was Martinez which he hoped to make by 1 p. m. But he said, as he waved to reporters and photographers, "Maybe I'll go on to Pittsburg if I'm feeling good."

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line stove, a sleeping bag and a metal container of clothes.

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